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A TRUE AND PLAIN

STATEMENT OF FACTS,

RELATIVE TO THE

REMOVAL OF MR. TAYLOR FROM THE MADRAS COUNCIL,

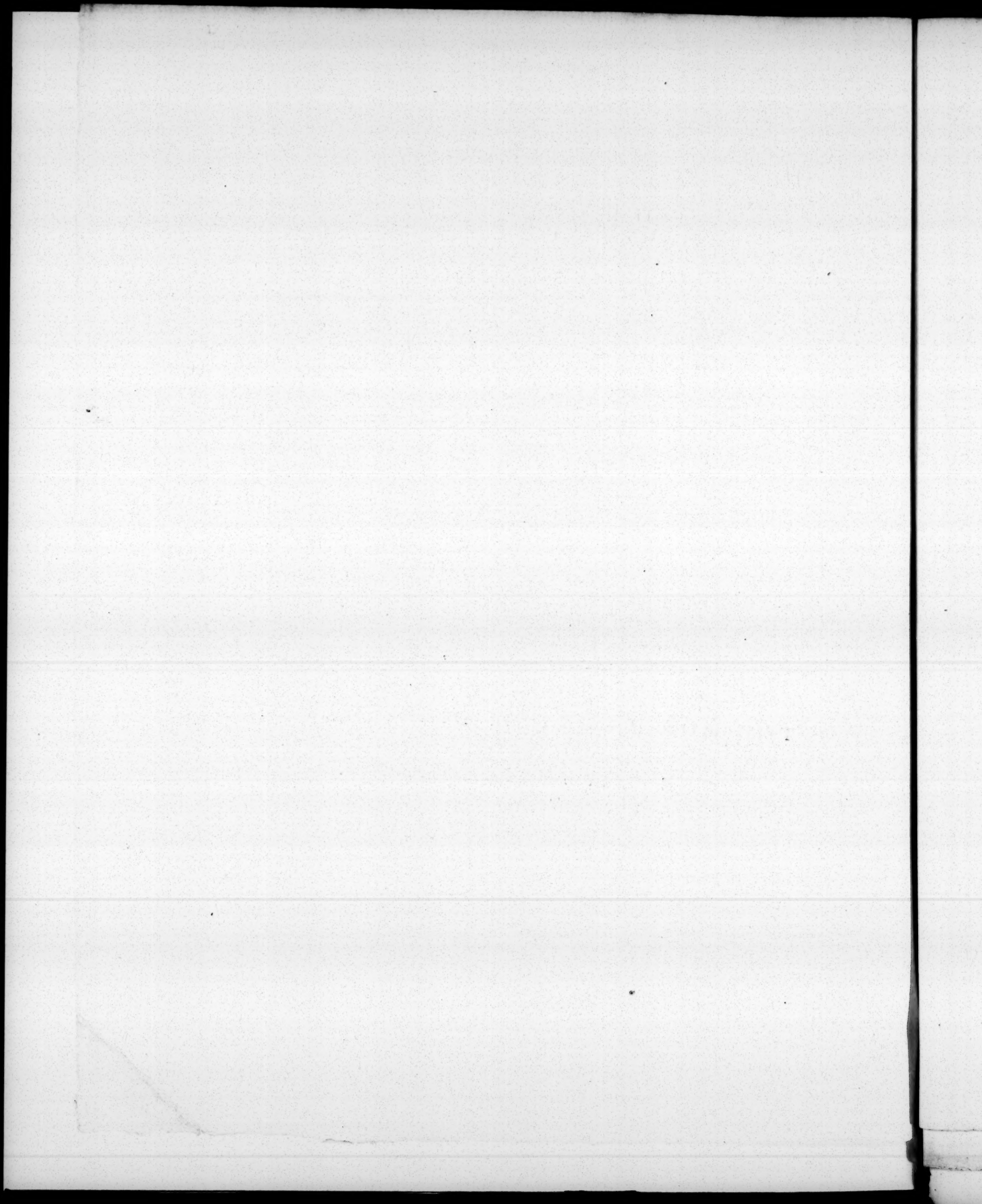
AND

HIS SUPERCESSION AT THE BOARD OF REVENUE:

FOR THE PERUSAL OF

THE HON. COURT OF DIRECTORS OF

THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.



A TRUE AND PLAIN
STATEMENT OF FACTS, &c.

MR. TAYLOR, a servant resident in India twenty-six years, was suspended from a seat in the Council at Madras, by the Government General, because he had *not entered a dissent to an Act* which *had passed* the Board before he became a Member thereof.

The 36th Clause of the 24th of his present Majesty, Chap. 25th, gives the Supreme Government a superintending and controlling power, *not in cases similar* to that for which Mr. Taylor stands suspended, but only in instances of *wilful disobedience of their orders*: consequently, as Mr. Taylor had no where made himself liable to the penalties of the Act, a *direct breach* thereof was committed *in his removal*. Not to mention the injustice and determined persecution shewn in removing a person from Council, when no other cause could be found, than, that he did not *take a retrospect*

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of what had passed *before his time*, and dissent to measures for which he was not responsible; thereby making himself justly liable to a vote of suspension, for passing a *censure on the acts of Government prior* to his becoming a Member thereof.

As Mr. Taylor was a temporary Councillor, appointed pursuant to the 4th Clause of the Act of the 26th of his present Majesty, *by the said Act the place he enjoyed*, as a Member of the Board of Revenue, *at the time* he was called to Council, is continued *to him by Deputy*; and *he reverts thereto* on his quitting his seat at the superior Board;—such Deputy was appointed:—but when Mr. Taylor was removed from Council, *the privilege of returning to his post* was denied him. His Deputy was removed, and another person appointed to the post. The orders from Bengal went only to the eventual suspension of Mr. Taylor from his seat in Council; yet, on a reference, at Mr. Taylor's request, of his claim to return to the Board of Revenue, the Government General sanctioned the measure adopted by General Medows and his Council, *precluding Mr. Taylor from his right* in this instance, and thereby, *in effect, extending his removal from Council to a suspension from the service*.—Hence arises an additional proof, when a determined persecution commences, that not even the most solemn acts of the Legislature will restrain its operation; for had not Mr. Taylor known *his right* of reverting to a seat at the Board of Revenue was *undoubted*, it cannot be supposed he would have foregone a *certain and permanent* advantage, for a benefit *precarious*

precarious and *temporary* ; his appointment in Council not being as yet confirmed by the Directors.

The reason given in palliation of the *second breach of the act* is frivolous: “ That there would be a manifest impropriety in
 “ permitting a person to sit as a member of an *inferior Board*,
 “ whose conduct had been so reprehensible as to occasion his
 “ removal from a *superior Board* ;” or, in other words, because Mr. Taylor (if it had been the case, which is by no means allowed) had erred in politics at the Council Board, he became (although an old and experienced servant,) totally unfit to discharge the duty of even any subordinate office.

Upon the usual intimation having been given to the Government General, of Mr. Taylor being called to Council, they reply, “ We think it our duty to say, that we cannot approve
 “ of your calling Mr. Taylor into your Council, as he has acknowledged upon record, that his own support, and that of
 “ his numerous family, depends upon the regular payment of
 “ the dividends to the private creditors of the Nabob ; and
 “ that he has already, in one instance, suffered his public conduct to be influenced by considerations of his private interest.”

This interference on the part of the Government General, is not warranted either by the Act of Parliament or the Company's orders ; their approbation not being required by either :

and with respect to Mr. Taylor's support depending upon the regular payment of the dividends to the private creditors of the Nabob, it ought not to be brought forward as an argument against his holding any post in the Company's service; for, at that very time, the creditors dividends were stopped, with orders from the Supreme Government to appropriate them to the exigencies of the State.

Upon receipt of the above Letter, Mr. Taylor entered a Minute in Council, stating, that, "when acting in the capacity
 " of a member of a Committee for the management of the
 " affairs of the creditors of the Nabob, the Committee having
 " occasion to address the Governor General in Council on cer-
 " tain points wherein the rights and interests of their constitu-
 " ents were implicated, it was considered, that they had ex-
 " ceeded those bounds of subordination and respect to their
 " superiors, which, as Company's servants, it was their duty
 " to have observed: their conduct on that occasion, though no
 " disrespect had been intended, *met with reprehension.*"

To this transaction the Government General allude, when they accuse Mr. Taylor with having, "*in one instance, suffered his pub-
 " lic conduct to be influenced by considerations of his private interest.*" For Mr. Taylor is confident, that, during a course of twenty-six years service, no one instance can be produced, wherein he has, in the execution of any of the trusts reposed in him, as a Com-
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pany's servant, suffered his public conduct to be influenced by considerations of private interest.

The Committee were only charged with disrespect, and the Supreme Government having, on that occasion, yielded with readiness to the unanimous recommendation of the Madras Board in favour of Mr. Taylor, and two other members of the Committee, expressing at the same time their regret, that, after an *unexceptionable deportment* on their parts, for *a long term of years*, a deviation from a proper respect to Government, should have rendered it necessary for them (the Government General) to express a disapproval of their conduct; how could they, with any degree of propriety, after having passed over the offence of *imputed disrespect*, renew the subject upon Mr. Taylor's being called to Council, with the severe construction, *that Mr. Taylor had* " *in one instance suffered his public conduct to be influenced by considerations of his private interest.*"

A recital of the transactions alluded to will be necessary, to render the foregoing clearly understood.

In the months of August and November 1789, instructions were transmitted from the Governor General, for the guidance of the Madras Board in regard to the Rajah of Travancore and Tippoo; and it was therein directed, in case Tippoo should attack the Rajah's dominions, that such attack must be considered

considered a declaration of war. Mr. Taylor did *not* see these instructions prior to the receipt of the letter from Bengal of the 27th January, 1790, mentioned hereafter.

Accounts were received very early in January, that an attack had been made.—The commanding officer on the Coast was directed, in consequence, to give in a plan of operations against Tippoo, which plan was adopted by the Madras Board in every essential point, except the provision of draught and carriage bullocks; which measure appears to have been deferred on account of the enormous expence it would occasion. Mr. Cafamajor entered a dissent, and declared the army ought to be completely equipped: — And on two other occasions, *when the subject was again brought under consideration*, by letters from Colonel Musgrave, he entered two minutes to the same effect; but *he no where appears to have marked his sentiments*, except when this matter was thus *actually brought under discussion* by Colonel Musgrave's letters; and there can be no reason to suppose but Mr. Taylor would have observed *the same line of conduct*, had the *same occasions* offered. *The business, however, of the bullocks was not*, from the time of Mr. Taylor's accession to Council, till the receipt of the letter from Bengal of the 27th January, *by any new occurrence brought under notice*; and then the orders for *equipping the army* were issued, as will hereafter appear.

Mr.

Mr. Cafamajor departed for England on the 17th, and Mr. Taylor was called to Council on the 26th January last, *after these measures were discussed and determined on*; and as no further hostilities had been committed, or any fresh representations made by Colonel Musgrave, whilst Mr. John Hollond presided at the Board, the subject did not again come under consideration until after his departure for England. Mr. John Hollond quitted the government on the 13th February, and on the following day, two letters from Bengal, dated the 26th and 27th January, were sent to Mr. Taylor, by the President, for perusal; which are inserted in Consultation the 16th of February, whereby it appeared, the Government General disapproved *only* of the political conduct of Mr. John Hollond's administration.

These were the only communications from Bengal, *since* Mr. Taylor came to Council. At the time of their receipt the Government had devolved on Mr. Edward John Hollond and him.—He, (Mr. Taylor) therefore, waited upon the President, and urged, in the most strenuous terms, the necessity of *equipping the army with draught and carriage bullocks for field service*; and to desire Colonel Musgrave's sentiments on the subject. The President having coincided in opinion with Mr. Taylor, the necessary orders *were issued on the 16th February*, that the extra bullocks then employed to the Southward, in transporting stores from Negapatam, should be retained in the service. Colonel Musgrave was acquainted therewith, and desired to give his opinion, if a
further

further provision of bullocks was requisite for immediate exigencies. Colonel Musgrave, in reply, *on the 18th February*, having given it as his opinion, that the corps should be completed with bullocks for field service, the measure was, on the same day, adopted by the Board, and orders were accordingly issued for the purpose.

On the 16th of February, the Government General were informed of the measure which had been adopted for equipping the army; and this notification, whereby they were in possession of the fact, that every necessary preparation *was* making for the equipment of the army with bullocks, must have reached them about *the 6th March*; yet, *on the 2d of April*, they direct that, in the event of Mr. Taylor's not having entered a dissent previous to the receipt of their letter of *the 27th January*, *because bullocks had not been provided*, he should be suspended from Council; *although they had known, near a month before they gave such orders, that the bullocks must actually have been ordered to be provided.*

Had Mr. Taylor confined himself *solely* to recording a *futile dissent*, (before the receipt of the letter of the 27th January) *because the army had not been equipped for field service*, instead of being *highly instrumental in effecting the measure itself on the very day the letter was read in Council*, he would, (*according to the orders of the Supreme Government*) have been freed from censure;—where-
as,

as, an *actual performance* of his duty, has *not* exempted him from it.

General Medows took charge of the Government the 20th February; on which day a letter was received from the Government General, expressing their surprize at Mr. John Hollond's administration, for not having provided the army with draught and carriage bullocks; and directing that it should be immediately equipped for field service. These orders were anticipated by the President and Mr. Taylor, as before stated.

General Medows, soon after his arrival, was informed at the Council Board of the orders that had been issued for equipping the army; and that it remained with him to point out such further measures as he might deem necessary. He, notwithstanding the orders from Bengal of August and November were before him, *for not entering a dissent to an implied disobedience of which, by others, Mr. Taylor stands suspended*; notwithstanding he was in possession of the further sentiments of the Government General, contained in their letters of the 26th and 27th January, and the 1st February, proposed no additional measures for assembling or equipping the army until the 5th of the following month, when he brought forward a Minute in Council, wherein he states, that
 “ affairs are so critically situated, and the last letters from Bengal seem so strongly to imply that vigorous measures are necessary, that, averse as he was to encouraging unnecessary ex-

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“ pences,

“ pences, he was decidedly of opinion that the rest of Colonel
 “ Musgrave’s plan should be put into immediate execution, of
 “ assembling and encamping the corps under marching orders
 “ at Wallajabad, and then going thence, perhaps, to the camps
 “ at Tritchinopoly, with bullocks and provisions sufficient to
 “ move for forty days ; every exertion being made to supply the
 “ different garrisons with grain.”

The above Minute, though acceded to by the Board, was not
 carried into execution, with respect to the providing of bullocks,
 till the 19th of March, when orders were sent to the Contractors
 to furnish bullocks to carry forty days provisions.—The orders
 for assembling and encamping the corps were given out the 7th of
 March, and to take effect the 13th and 15th. This Minute
 speaks so forcibly for itself, that little or no comment is re-
 quired. It could not be the result of deliberations founded on
 the misconduct of the former Administration ; nor could it be
 in obedience to the orders received from Bengal in August
 and November, or the 26th and 27th January, and 1st February ;
 for, in either case, it ought to have been brought at an earlier
 period. So that it is evident General Medows assumed to
 himself a discretionary power of delaying to make any effective
 preparations for the equipment of the army, from the 20th Febru-
 ary until the 19th March, notwithstanding the situation of affairs
 became every day more critical ; *and did not incur any censure for
 such delay, even though he was in possession of the Bengal Instructions*
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of the 26th and 27th January, and their additional orders of the 1st February: but Mr. Taylor, who was not allowed the benefit of those communications to guide him, (his removal being directed, if a dissent was not entered before their arrival) was suspended from Council because he had not, previous to the receipt of the letter of the 27th January, entered a dissent to an act of imputed disobedience by others, of their orders of August and November.

From General Medows's arrival, until Mr. Taylor was deprived of his seat in Council, the President *did not dissent to*, or mark upon record any disapprobation *of the measures which had been adopted by Mr. John Holland's Administration*, either previous or subsequent to Mr. Taylor's becoming a Member thereof; but the act of suspension was nevertheless enforced by General Medows; who, if any fault existed, was consequently more culpable than Mr. Taylor, as by his station he became the Executive Member of Government.

The mode in which the suspension was effected, is also worthy of remark: Mr. Taylor's removal by the Bengal Government *was eventual*. General Medows was desired to search the records, for the purpose of *ascertaining whether any dissent had been entered by Mr. Taylor, previous to the receipt of the letters from Bengal of the 27th January*. Although no dissent had been entered, yet General Meadows was well acquainted that the spirit of the Bengal Instructions had been acted up to, so far as related to Mr. Taylor,

who is only held culpable in the event of his not having recorded
*“ his disapprobation of the conduct of his colleagues in office, in neglecting
 “ to provide such equipment as should enable the army to take the
 “ field ;”* and consequently, *as orders had been issued* to provide
 bullocks for the army, a discretionary power was vested in General
 Medows to delay the execution of their orders, till the Supreme
 Government had heard what Mr. Taylor had to urge in
 mitigation of them.—Instead of which, the Secretary sends
 in circulation the Bengal Orders, and announces by letter,
 that the Governor considers Mr. Taylor's seat in Council va-
 cated.

On receipt of this intimation from the Secretary, Mr. Taylor
 addressed a Letter to the Governor in Council, dated 20th April,
 1790, claiming (prior to a final decision) the usual privilege
 granted to all servants of the Company, pursuant to *repeated
 positive orders* from the Court of Directors, of being furnished
 with the charges against him, and allowed an opportunity of
 entering upon a defence of his conduct ; *which right was denied*
 him, though it had *been allowed* to Mr. Edward John Hollond,
 who (in consequence of some letters from the Government
 General, after General Medows's arrival, requiring an expla-
 nation from Mr. John Hollond's administration, of certain parts
 of their conduct, in which it was considered Mr. Taylor was
 no ways implicated) had delivered in two minutes in vindication
 of his brother's administration, which were before the Govern-

ment General, and taken into consideration previous to their directing his suspension.

From the foregoing recital of facts, chiefly from the Company's records, it evidently appears that Mr. Taylor's suspension *was not founded upon any misconduct in his public station*;—Mr. Taylor can, therefore, only attribute it to the result of private communications between the two Presidents, *upon grounds that would not bear the test of a public charge against him*.—If Mr. Taylor is wrong in this conjecture, he is sorry for it:—but a variety of circumstances seem to concur in warranting the idea, and he will endeavour to trace it to the fountain head.

When General Medows arrived, he found Mr. Taylor a member of this Government, with every disposition to support him and his measures, as far as he could, consistently with that knowledge and experience which a service of twenty-six years in the Company's affairs had enabled him to acquire; and Mr. Taylor trusts, that General Medows will allow he received support from him in measures of importance, that had come under discussion at the Board; particularly in two instances, wherein he deputed Mr. Secretary Chameir to wait upon Mr. Taylor to adjust some points which were in difference between the President and the other member. The readiness with which Mr. Taylor effected those points, and the assurances which he gave
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Mr. Chameir at the time, ought to have left no room to doubt his intention of supporting General Medows.

Some points, however, of less moment, not having met an equal ready concurrence from Mr. Taylor, he is led to believe General Medows imbibed impressions therefrom of meeting opposition from his Council, and being *left in a minority at the Board*; and perhaps a fear in leaving Mr. Taylor in charge of this Government, during his absence in the field, left measures, not of the President's adoption, might be pursued.—*Words expressive of his apprehension of his being left in a minority, were dropped by Mr. Chameir, in the course of the above conversation*; but Mr. Taylor hoped that *the assurances he had given on the occasion*, were sufficient to eradicate the idea from General Medows's mind.—Hence, Mr. Taylor conceives, the prejudice against him originated; and hence it is natural to infer, a private communication to effect his removal; as it is notorious that the man (not the measure for which he stands removed) was obnoxious. In further proof that Mr. Taylor's removal resulted from a private communication between the two Presidents, and not for misconduct, it is proper to mention, that in the Calcutta newspaper, entitled the Bengal Journal, of the 10th of April, which is *eight* days only after the date of the letter *eventually* suspending Mr. Taylor, is the following paragraph.

CALCUTTA.

C A L C U T T A.

M A D R A S C O U N C I L.

“ Messrs. Hollond and Taylor, Members of the Council at
 “ Fort St. George, *have been by late orders removed from their seat*
 “ *at the Board*:—Messrs. Turing and Chambers (brother to Sir
 “ Robert Chambers) have been, we hear, nominated to the
 “ vacancies occasioned by this removal.” And in a subsequent
 paper, the mistake of the names is rectified, and Mr. Saunders
 makes his appearance. The orders from Bengal, so far as they
 relate to Mr. Taylor, were *eventual*; and *ostensively* depended on
 his having entered a dissent, which the Governor General must
 have well known, from prior private communication, did not
 exist: How otherwise could the fact of Mr. Taylor’s suspension,
 (which in the letter to the Madras Board was declared to be
 eventual) and the person whom, it would appear, the Govern-
 ment General intended should succeed him, become so well known
 as to find insertion in the public prints?—Or how otherwise,
 unless by private communication, could it be known that Mr.
 Turing was duly qualified, according to the instructions from
 Bengal of the 2d of April, (by not being a creditor of the Nabob
 and Rajah of Tanjour) and that General Medows’s election would
 fall upon him, to fill the vacant seat occasioned by Mr. Hollond’s
 suspension,

suspension, among so many Company's servants who are by Act of Parliament eligible to Council.

Mr. Taylor's suspension from Council having been signified to him within a few hours after the receipt of the letter from Bengal of the 2d April, the President being then at the Company's garden-house, he was struck with the suddenness of the communication; and it occurred to him that the previous examination of the records directed by the Supreme Government, could not have taken place: he, therefore, called upon the Secretary and his Deputy to declare the fact. These gentlemen having thought it necessary to lay Mr. Taylor's letter before the Board, he received the following letter by their order, as a reply: "Having laid before the Board your letters to me and to Mr. Jackson, dated the 23d instant, I am directed by them to express their perfect confidence, that the President, in his conduct towards yourself, acted in strict conformity to the orders from Bengal of the 2d April last." As, however, Mr. Taylor did not look up to the Board for information on a point of detail in duty between the President and the Secretaries, in the execution of orders from Bengal, previous to the accession to Council of any of the present members of the Board; and as Mr. Taylor considered himself warranted in demanding of the Secretaries, in their official capacities, communication of all matters which occurred prior to the illegal removal of him from Council, he thought it necessary, and accordingly again required

red from them an unequivocal declaration of the fact. To Mr. Taylor's letter on this occasion, he received no reply; nor did his subsequent address to the Board meet with more notice, wherein he stated the inattention of the Secretaries, and requested that orders might be issued to them to give him the information he required: from which evasive conduct, as well as from the following short minute, entered in the Diary of Consultation of the 21st of April, immediately after the orders from Bengal of the 2d of April, not stating that the requisite search had been made, but simply that, "in consequence of the foregoing, the President directed the Secretary to write the following letter to Mr. Edward John Hollond, and to Mr. Taylor." Mr. Taylor considers himself well founded in concluding that the examination directed by the Government General, *never did take place*; which evidently points out the prior communication between the two Presidents; and that had the orders from the Government General been legal (which Mr. Taylor does not admit) the mode of carrying them into execution was irregular.

In the course of twenty-six years residence in India, most of the friends which Mr. Taylor had in England, have paid the last tribute which nature can exact; his fate must, therefore, depend upon that construction which the Honourable Company may be pleased to put upon his conduct; and, as he is confident that he has faithfully discharged his duty in every station which he has had the honour to fill in their service, he has a perfect reli-

ance that their equity and justice will restore him to his seat in Council, with full allowances from the period of his suspension. But in case the Honourable Company should, (without noticing Mr. Taylor in the appointment) have filled up the vacancies which have arisen in Council, by reason of the resignation of Mr. Hollond and Mr. Casamajor, and Mr. Taylor's seat *as a temporary Councillor* be thereby vacated, he then trusts, that they will be pleased to grant him the allowances of a Councillor, till the arrival of those orders; with the right, agreeable to *the 4th Clause of the 26th of his present Majesty*, of resuming his seat at the Board of Revenue, of which he is at present *illegally* deprived, as stated in the first part of this narrative, and the allowances annexed to it from the period at which the Company may be pleased to direct his salary, as a member of Council, to cease.

F I N I S.

